UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22319
2 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE 2977TH (RESUMED AND CLOSED)
MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Held in private in the Security Council Chamber at Headquarters, New York,

on Thursday, 14 February 1991, at 3.30 p.m.

Friday, 15 February 1991, at 3.30 p.m.

Saturday, 16 February 1991, at 11 a.m.

Saturday, 23 February 1991, at 10.30 a.m.

Monday, 25 February 1991, at 11 a.m. and

Saturday, 2 March 1991, at 6 p.m.

At its resumed 2977th meeting, held in private on 14, 15, 16, 23 and 25 February and 2 March 1991, the Security Council continued its consideration of the item entitled "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait".

On 14 February 1991, the President, with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Comoros, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, at their request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

In response to requests dated 13 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, in his capacity as current Chairman of the Islamic Group at the United Nations (S/22220), and the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations (S/22221), respectively, the President, with the consent of the Council, extended invitations under rule 39 of

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the Council's provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Engin Ansay, Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the United Nations, and Mrs. Arlette Laurent, Chargé d'affaires of the delegation of the Commission of the European Economic Community.

Statements were made by the representatives of Kuwait, the United States, Yemen, Cuba, Zaire and the United Kingdom. The President made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq, China, Romania, Austria, Ecuador, Belgium and the USSR.

On 15 February, statements were made by the representatives of India, France, Cuba, Japan, Canada, Italy, Australia, Chile, Germany, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Yugoslavia, the United States, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Kingdom.

On 16 February, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan, the Sudan, Mexico, Turkey, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Kingdom, the United States, the USSR and Austria. The representative of Cyprus made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States and Yemen and by the President, speaking in his capacity as the representative of Zimbabwe.

On 23 February, statements were made by the representatives of the USSR, the United States, China, India, the United Kingdom, Austria, Cuba, France, Belgium, Ecuador, Yemen and Romania. The Secretary-General made a statement. The representatives of Kuwait, Egypt, Zaire and Iraq made statements.

On 25 February, statements were made by the representatives of the USSR, Yemen, the United States, India, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Kingdom, China, Zaire, Cuba and Belgium.

On 2 March, the President made a statement.

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S/22320
3 March 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL*

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, dated 3 March 1991.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Abdul-Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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* An identical letter addressed to the Secretary-General is contained in document S/22321.

Annex

Letter dated 3 March 1991 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that the Iraqi Government has taken note of the text of Security Council resolution 686 (1991) and that it has agreed to fulfil its obligations under the said resolution. We hope that the Council, in its turn, will interact in an objective and honourable manner, pursuant to the provisions of international law and the principles of equity and justice, with our faithful and - to the extent that we are able - speedy fulfilment of those obligations.

You and the members of the Security Council are well aware of the manner in which the American forces and their partners in the military operations against Iraq have implemented Security Council resolution 678 (1990), and of the major losses which Iraq has suffered to its infrastructure, economic, civilian, cultural and religious property, basic public services such as electricity, water, telephones, transport, fuel and other essential requirements of everyday life.

Despite these facts, resolution 686 (1991) has ignored the Iraqi people's suffering and the imposition on Iraq alone of a long series of obligations. A number of members of the Security Council referred to this fact, leading one of them (Cuba) to vote against the resolution, while three States - India, Yemen and China, the latter being a permanent member of the Council - abstained.

We record these facts for history and for the attention of those members of the Security Council and the international Organization - and those elements of international public opinion - who have a conscience. Our agreement to fulfil our obligations under this resolution stems from our determination to refute the pretexts which some may employ in order to persist in their aggression against Iraq and to inflict further harm on its people.

Iraq hopes that the Security Council will ensure the adoption of a resolution proclaiming an official cease-fire and the cessation of all military operations on land, at sea and in the air, as well as the immediate withdrawal of the foreign military forces stationed without any justification in various regions of Iraq. Iraq also hopes that the Security Council will proceed to declare, with all possible speed, the bases for its adoption of Security Council resolutions 661 (1990), 665 (1990) and 670 (1990) as having lapsed, with the result that the resolutions become null and void.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Baghdad, 3 March 1991

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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Following consultations of the Security Council, the President made the following statement, on behalf of the Council, at its 2979th meeting on 3 March 1991, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait":

"The Council welcomes the decisions taken to date relating to food and medical needs by the Committee established under resolution 661 including those just taken to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance including infant formula and water purification material.

"It calls upon the Committee to continue to act promptly on requests submitted to it for humanitarian assistance.

"It urges the Committee to pay particular attention to the findings and recommendations on critical medical/public health and nutritional conditions in Iraq which have been and will continue to be submitted to it by the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other relevant organizations, consistent with the relevant resolutions, and urges these humanitarian agencies to play an active role in this process and co-operate closely with the Committee in its work.

"The Council welcomes the Secretary-General's announcement that he plans to send urgently a mission led by Under-Secretary-General Martti Ahtisaari comprising representatives of the appropriate United Nations agencies to Iraq and Kuwait to assess the humanitarian needs arising in the immediate post crisis environment. The Council invites the Secretary-General to keep it informed in the shortest possible time on the progress of his mission on which it pledges to take immediate action."